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Message Text

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10
ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 /120 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN/G:DCLARE:TK
APPROVED BY ARA/CEN DAVID LAZAR
ARA/CEN/B:SHLIPPE (DRAFT)
---------- 025665
R 031846Z MAY 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMCONSUL BELIZE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 091254

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS:PFOR, PBOR, GT, BH, MX
SUBJECT:BELIZE ISSUE: PRICE TALKS WITH RABASA AND ARENALES

1. FOR OUR BACKGROUND ONLY, MAY 2 UK EMBASSY OFFICER WALKER SHOWED CENOFFS COPIES OF DESPATCHES FROM MEXICO AND BELMOPAN REGARDING PRICE'S MEETINGS WITH RABASA AND ARENALES DURING ATLANTA OASGA.

2. RABASA TOLD UK AMBASSADOR AT MEXICO CITY THAT HE HAD INFORMED PRICE MEXICO WOULD WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY MEETING WHICH RESOLVED TERRITORIAL PROBLEMS. MEXICO'S ONLY INTEREST WAS TO "ASSURE SEA ACCESS TO CHETUMAL THROUGH MEXICAN TERRITORIAL WATERS,. PROVIDING THIS CONDITION MET AND GUATEMALAN CLAIMS SUCCESSFULY RESOLVED, MEXICO WOULD ENDORSE SETTLEMENT. SAME GENERAL ACCOUNT OF MEETING RELAYED BY PRICE TO GOVERNOR'S OFFICE IN BELIZE.

3. PRICE TOLD GOVERNOR'S OFFICE THAT ARENALES HAD SUGGESTED
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SECRET TALKS BE RESUMED SECOND OR THIRD WEEK IN MAY.

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TIMING SUPPOSEDLY GEARED TO RETURN OF LAUGERUD FROM EUROPEAN TRIP SO THAT HE COULD BE BRIEFED ON PLAN AND WOULD HAVE CHANCE TO INCLUDE ON DELEGATION STILL UNKNOWN NEW GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER. ACCORDING BELMOPAN REPORT, GUATEMALANS ALSO SAID THEY NEEDED TIME TO BRIEF ARANA ON ALL SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES IN PLAN. PRICE ALLEDGEDLY SURPRISED THAT TOP GUATEMALANS NOT ALREADY FULLY ON BOARD.

4. COMMENT: PRICE DID NOT APPEAR CONCERNED ABOUT MEXICANS' INSISTANCE ON ACCESS TO CHETUMAL THROUGH MEXICAN TERRITORIAL WATERS. RABASA DISMISSED IT BY INDICATING MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO RELOCATE BORDER "A FEW METERS" AND PRICE REPORTEDLY TOLD GOVERNOR'S OFFICE THAT IT WAS A QUESTION OF TRANSFERRING "SMALL STRIPS OF LAND". WE ARE UNCLEAR AS TO PRECISELY WHAT RABASA HAS IN MIND BUT THIS CLEAREST INDICATION TO DATE OF MEXICAN INTENTIONS REGARDING TERRITORIAL CLAIMS. WE ALSO NOTE PRICE GAVE NO INDICATION AS TO WHETHER ARENALES MENTIONED REDUCTION OF BRITISH GARRISON AS PRE-CONDITION TO RENEWED TALKS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL WATERS, LAW OF THE SEA, MEETINGS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Remarks:
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Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2003 by GarlanWA>
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Subject: ELIZE ISSUE: PRICE TALKS WITH RABASA AND ARENALES
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, GT, BH, MX
To: GUATEMALA MULTIPLE
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